

# End of an era



N.C. photo—Dave Garot

The summer of 1985 will be the first in a long time when area residents won't

be able to enjoy a night at the movies at the Valley Outdoor.

## Increasing vandalism forces closing of Valley Outdoor

by Jonathan Drayna  
News-Chronicle Staff Writer

The feature now playing at Green Bay's only remaining drive-in movie theater might be entitled *Night of the Teen-age Vandals*.

Last summer was Valley Outdoor's last. It has been sold, and will be torn down, manager Steve Johnson said Monday, citing expensive vandalism woes.

And so the outdoor scene here has gone the way of saddle shoes and convertibles, leaving us devoid of the great symbol of suspense under the stars and young love.

Johnson said vandalism came with younger crowds, and intensified over the last few years, especially after the closing of the 41 Starlight outdoor. He said he tried movie offerings that would draw older viewers and families, but that didn't help.

"Vandalism was pretty bad out there," Johnson said. "It became a growing, grow-

ing problem. It was a lot of bucks."

The younger, boisterous crowd also drove off older viewers and families, he said.

The Valley Outdoor is by no means unique, Johnson said. "It's a nationwide phenomenon."

Or maybe the story should be called *Torture in the Night: the Grip of the Small Cars*.

He explained that with smaller cars popular these days, people don't enjoy spending sometimes six hours looking through the windows while crammed into small seats.

Add to that the fact that outdoor movie selections have usually run for at least six months at indoor establishments, and "It was simply a matter of declining business," Johnson said.

He added that outdoor fans shouldn't hold their breath waiting for some entrepreneur to build and open a new outdoor. As far as he knows, there have not even been any plans for new drive-ins in the area.

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